

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

Georgia Academy for the Blind,

FOR THE YEARS 1870 AND 1871.

THE NINETEENTH AND TWENTIETH YEARS OF THE INSTITUTION.

Macon, Ga., Nov. 1871.

MACON, GA.:

J. W. BURKE & CO., PRINTERS AND STATIONERS.

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Trustees.

JAMES MERCER GREEN, *President.*

L. N. WHITTLE,

JACKSON DELOACHE,

WASHINGTON POE,

HENRY L. JEWETT, *Treasurer,*

A. J. WHITE,

PETER SOLOMON.

W. D. WILLIAMS, *Secretary of the Board.*

Officers of the Academy.

W. D. WILLIAMS, A. M.,

Principal.

MISS H. GUILLAN,

Literary Department.

MISS A. E. ZACHRY,

Assistant.

V. CZURDA,

Music Department.

Department of Handicrafts.

....., *Foreman.*

REPORT.

To His Excellency, BENJAMIN CONLEY,
Governor of Georgia :

SIR : The Trustees of the "Georgia Academy for the Blind" in submitting the usual Report of its management to the Executive of the State, the General Assembly and the Public, have little more to do than to call attention to the accompanying documents, to-wit: the report of H. L. JEWETT, Esq., the Treasurer, and the report of Mr. W. D. WILLIAMS, Principal, hereto appended.

An analysis of the Treasurer's Report will show that the funds of the Institution, since January 1st, 1870, have been as follows :

RECEIPTS OF 1870:

Amount from pay-pupils, board and tuition	\$ 530 00
Amount from pay pupils, clothing.....	78 00
Amount from dividends Southern Mutual Insurance Company.....	81 25
Amount from board and tuition, Miss M. P. ELLINGTON, past years, two bonds, \$500 00 each, Mississippi & Tennessee Railroad Company, at eighty-five per cent.....	850 00
Amount from annual appropriation.....	11,000 00
Total.....	\$12,539 25

DISBURSEMENTS FOR 1870:

Bonds of Mississippi & Tennessee Railroad Company, taken as above	\$ 850 00
Orders of Board for maintenance.....	10,689 25—\$11,539 25
Balance on hand, December 1st.....	\$ 1,000 00

RECEIPTS OF 1871:

Balance, as above, from 1870.....	\$ 1,000 00
Coupons of Mississippi & Tennessee Railroad bonds collected, (less fees).....	115 37
Amount of annual appropriation.....	11,000 00
Total.....	\$12,115 37

DISBURSEMENTS OF 1871:

Orders of Board for maintenance.....	\$11,250 00
Cash on hand.....	\$ 865 37

It will be seen from these statements, that there remains in the Treasurer's hands the sum of \$865 37 in cash, and the two bonds of the Mississippi & Tennessee Railroad Company, worth at par value \$1,000 00, but received in payment of a debt at eighty-five cents in the dollar. These bonds, known as the "first mortgage" bonds of said Company—being thought a good investment at the sum named in the face—paying an annual interest thereon of eight per cent, the Board thought it wise to hold, as a permanent fund, to meet any extraordinary contingency that may occur in the affairs of the Academy, or at least until their price in the market shall approximate more closely their par value.

The Principal's Report furnishes the statistics of the Institution, a general account of the domestic management, some discussions as to the interests of the work, and a classified statement of the expenses during the two years under consideration. He is required to submit, monthly, written reports of all internal matters in detail, and his accounts of expenditures, accompanied with proper vouchers, are duly examined by the Board, and filed.

The vacancy in the Board caused by the resignation of Hon. NATHAN BASS, has been filled by the election of PETER SOLOMON, Esq., as Trustee, in his place.

The property of the Institution is kept in good condition by regular and speedy repairs when needed, and with all proper care as to cleanliness and order. Insurance, to the amount of thirty thousand dollars, is kept up on the main building.

The usual annual appropriation, *eleven thousand* dollars, the Trustees think, will be required for the wants of the next year, and they ask the renewal of the same by the Legislature.

The attendance of beneficiaries is not so large as the Trustees think it ought to be, but it bears a favorable proportion to the population of the State, as compared with the attendance in older Institutions. It is, however, much below the accommodations provided and the facilities prepared for the education of the blind, and it is thought and feared, that there yet remain in Georgia many "youths, male and female, hopelessly blind or incurably blind to that extent which prevents education in the ordinary methods, between the ages of eight and eighty-one years, of sound mind and free from bodily disease,

and of good moral character and habits," (the qualifications for admission), not in the Academy. To such and their friends, the Trustees commend the Institution. In behalf of such, in reference to its benevolent aims and provisions, they invoke the kindly intervention and assistance of the friends of the blind youth throughout the State, to make known to them the object of the Institution, to report them to the Principal, to advise their attendance, and, if need be, to take active measures to secure it at once.

The Board close this Report with their oft repeated commendation of the objects of the Institution, of the faithful labors of the officers and teachers, now many years in the service of the Institution, and also of the good conduct and persevering docility of the present, no less than of former classes of pupils.

By order of the Board.

JAMES MERCER GREEN,
President.

Academy for the Blind,
Macon, Ga., Nov. 20, 1871.

HENRY L. JEWETT, TREASURER, in Account with Georgia Academy for the Blind.

D.R.		C.R.	
1870.	To Board and Tuition of W. Yanatcheck, 1869...	June 16...	By paid Draft Jas. Mercer Green, President, date April 11th, 1870.....
June 16...	" " of Minner Collins.....	June 16...	By paid Draft Jas. Mercer Green, President, date April 30th, 1870.....
" "	" Clothing, W. Yanatcheck.....	June 16...	By paid Draft Jas. Mercer Green, President, date June 1st, 1870.....
" "	" " Minner Collins.....	June 16...	By paid cost two Bonds, \$500 each, Miss & Tenn. Railroad Company, taken for dues from Ellington.....
" "	" " Ella Bates.....	Sept'r 1...	By paid Draft P. Solomon, President, <i>pro tem.</i> , date 1st September, 1870.....
June 16...	To Dividend Southern Mutual Insurance Co.....	Oct. 1.....	By paid Draft P. Solomon, President, <i>pro tem.</i> , date 1st October, 1870.....
" "	" State appropriation, 1st and 2d quarters.....	Dec'r 13...	By paid Draft James Mercer Green, President, date 13th December, 1870.....
" "	" Board and Tuition of M. P. Ellington, collected in two Bonds, \$500 each, of Miss. & Tenn. Railroad Company, at \$5 ¢ cent.....		By balance to new account.....
July 20...	To State appropriation, 3d quarter.....		
Dec'r 12...	" 4th		
1870.	To Balance from old account.....	March 14	By paid Draft James Mercer Green, President, date 13th February, 1871.....
Dec'r 13...		March 14	By paid Draft Washington Poc, President, <i>pro tem.</i> , 13th March, 1871.....
1871.	To State appropriation, 1st quarter.....	April 13...	By paid Draft James Mercer Green, President, date 13th April, 1871.....
March 14	" Coupons collected on Miss. & Tenn. Railroad Bonds.....	June 12...	By paid Draft James Mercer Green, President.....
May 16...		July 21...	" " " " " " " "
July 27...		Oct. 15...	" " " " " " " "
August 4.	To State appropriation, 3d quarter, through W. D. Williams, Principal.....	Nov. 15...	" balance to new account.....
Nov'r 6...	To State appropriation, 4th quarter, through W. D. Williams, Principal.....		
1871.			
Nov'r 15...	To Balance from old account.....		

HENRY L. JEWETT, Treasurer.

MACON, GA., 17th November, 1871.

REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL TO THE TRUSTEES.

GEORGIA ACADEMY FOR THE BLIND,
MACON, Nov. 15, 1871.

Gentlemen:—The last Report of the “Georgia Academy for Blind” to the Executive of the State was dated January, 1870, and was made up of the affairs of the year previous. The present Report, in order to preserve continuity in the history of the Institution, will relate to matters which have taken place since that time, and be, in a measure, a rehearsal of the particulars of the two years 1870 and 1871.

The Regulations of the Academy confide “to the Principal, under the advice and supervision of the Trustees, to whom he is made responsible for his acts, the immediate charge and conduct of the Institution in all its departments.” This, of necessity, imposes upon him a variety of official work, and, therefore, in reporting upon the management of the establishment, he must review a corresponding range of details.

It is well to keep definitely and distinctly in view, in all of our operations, the object of this Institution. It is the educational training of the Blind. Its chartered name, “Academy,” would seem enough to indicate this much; yet, in the face of this name, and notwithstanding our reiterated assertion, there seems to be, now and then developing, misapprehensions and consequent mistakes on this point. The Academy is not an Infirmary for the treatment of the diseases of the eye, or for operations surgical or medicinal for the purpose of the restoration or improvement of vision. No less is it an Asylum in the sense of a refuge and a home for any or all classes of the indigent Blind. It claims to be merely a School—like other Schools, in many respects—having its course of study, its system of discipline, its departments of literature and music—but unlike other schools generally, in the fact that it embraces a mechanical department for the training of its pupils in industrial work, and into which it sometimes receives, under special circumstances, blind adults as apprentices.

The course of study in the departments of literature and music, in the Academy, is much the same as that of the schools for the other youth of the country, the difference being more in the modes and appliances by which it is pursued, than in the names or the range of the subjects taught. A further difference may be named—which is, that our system of instruction and culture aims more directly and immediately at the pursuits which are to engage our graduates in future life. It is, therefore, more practical in its nature than the usual system of education. The leading object in view being some special qualification to fit the pupil to enter upon a self-sustaining condition of life, attention is directed to the special aptitudes manifested, and in that direction the training is addressed. The range of pursuits by which the blind may earn a livelihood with personal industry, is not so limited as we are prone to suppose. In literature, a very large proportion of the pupils in the Institution, both males and females, acquire both sufficient knowledge and favorable habits to qualify them to take position as competent teachers of seeing children, for instance, as special instructors and assistants in common schools. Occasionally they find successful employment in this line. Music, where there is capacity for it, furnishes the qualifications which promise the most ready and remunerative success. Very many blind persons find situations as teachers of music and organists, and do well. There are a few mechanical trades easily acquired by the blind, but the general small rewards for manual work and the fierce and disadvantageous competition with seeing mechanics which they encounter in life, sadly abridge the probabilities of success. Still many blind persons are worthily supporting themselves in this way, and not a few have attained to competency.

Besides the inherent difficulties of the hapless condition caused by a lack of vision, there are many other formidable impediments to an independent, self-sustaining career, in the case of the blind. We may do what we can for them, endow them by our labors with such qualifications as our pains-taking and culture can furnish, and yet find our work abortive or counter-vailed by adverse external influences. Strange that the most potent of these influences should often be found a manifestation of popular sentiment. One of these can be better shown by an illustration. A blind young man, with a thorough knowl-

edge of music, and supported with the strong testimonials of the officers of his *Alma Mater*, goes to a strange village to get up a musical class, or he may have good literary qualifications and seek a position as teacher in the school, or he may be even a skillful mechanic proposing to open a shop. The welcome extended to him is more dubious than cordial. Much prurient curiosity on the part of the thoughtless vulgar, and much uncouth, not to say impertinent questioning as to the circumstances of his condition, of course, he has to encounter. If, haply, he is inured to this ordeal of his patience and sense of propriety, and can bravely survive the natural feelings of disgust and mortification thereby engendered in a sensitive mind, he finds, further, the popular mind pre-occupied, almost universally, with the common idea of the utterly helpless condition consequent on blindness. This idea precludes all supposition of capacity for useful work, and both causes and sanctions a feeling of stubborn distrust, prejudicial, if not fatal, to all his pretensions. He soon becomes aware of this discount upon him; discouragement ensues; he becomes disheartened; "accepts the situation;" loses self-reliance; the influential portion of the community—perhaps more apt than others to be affected with this adverse sentiment—pass him by; he falls into the hands of those whose society and whose help can do him little good; gives up; becomes a wreck of disappointed aspirations. This issue is more likely to occur when the subject is a blind young lady.

Another phase of popular sentiment counteracts, to the prosecution of the useful qualifications of the educated blind, and in this case, strange that it should be, one of the noblest of human virtues—Pity. In my observation among men and things, I have found no sentiment, except selfishness, more common with mankind, than compassion for the blind. I love to contemplate it, but nevertheless I must admit, that it often defeats the beneficent results of our work. To some natures this compassion is painful—causing a shrinking away from the presence and companionship of the unfortunate. Such persons deserve compassion themselves. Others, under its influence, are ready to excuse the failings and the foibles of the blind to any extent. This is a somewhat problematical virtue. But all sorts of people are ever ready to give to the blind. This is the

trouble. The blind, on coming in contact with the world, soon learn this fact, and the step is not far to the further conclusion, that a living acquired in this way is more easy and ready than that derived from honest industry, and for it the honest trade is given up. It tends to make beggars of those qualified for useful and virtuous enterprise in the avenues of business, and as such, I enter a protest against it. This aptitude or liability to fall into the mendicant mode of living, is often fostered by some accomplishment the subject may have acquired in school or elsewhere—such as the ability to make music on some light instrument, as the violin, accordion and guitar, to sing popular and comic songs, and even to rehearse snatches of pathetic or doggerel verse. These arts are practiced in public places, as about depots, fair-grounds, hotels and drinking saloons, and popular pity rewards them. Such idle, begging vagabonds bring disgrace and discredit upon the true interests of the blind, and the ready patronage they receive tempts others to follow in their steps. It is an evil—and an evil that may never be corrected. “That which is crooked cannot be made straight,” is the voice of the preacher.

The experience of the Academy during these two years has been pleasant and successful. The household has had health rarely experienced in any ordinary family, much less in a family of persons constitutionally infirm, and numbering as ours number. Not a case of sickness worthy of a record has occurred, and we might have forgotten the professional face and tone of voice of our kind physician, which we like so much to see and hear when there is any serious ailment among us, had it not been for an accident, by which a little boy broke a limb, from attempting to climb out at a window. That case was cured.

The officers and teachers of school and household remain unchanged, except that the place of Master of Handicrafts is now filled by the Principal and older male pupils, instead of a regular employee.

The progress of the pupils in all the departments have been satisfactory. The range of studies has been the same as heretofore so often reported. We have added somewhat to our supply of text books, and have increased our library for the blind by the purchase of all the late American publications in

raised print. Last summer I found in Chicago a most valuable and beautiful globe, made in Berlin, for the purpose of illustrating physical geography. On examination, I found it well adapted, with very slight contrivances, to the use of the blind, and purchased it, thereby filling a long felt desideratum in the Academy. In the same house, also, I found certain maps raised for the same object, which I also purchased and have now in the use of the school. In apparatus of this kind I now know of no Institution in advance of ours. We have also adopted the "New York horizontal point alphabet" system of writing, and have added some tablets made therefor, to our supply of apparatus for instruction. The Institution is now thoroughly furnished with all needful appliances for its work.

The number of persons who have received the benefits of the Institution during these two years is forty-three. This number has not at any one time been present—some going out and others coming in, and, therefore, the average attendance would count less. Four or five others have been formally admitted, but have not yet been sent in. The catalogue appended gives the names of those who have attended. Efforts to extend the knowledge of the benefits of the Institution and to secure the admission of all who are entitled to its privileges, have not been remitted.

EXPENSES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT.

The following is a classified abstract from my books for the year 1870, followed by that of 1871 to date :

RECEIPTS—1870.

1st. Balance of 1869 remaining on hand.....	\$ 822 61
2d. Orders of the Board of Trustees.....	10,689 25
	\$11,511 86

EXPENDITURES.

For Salaries.....	\$3,260 00
" Postage and Stationery.....	40 13
" Carriage Hire and Travel.....	106 20
" School Expenses.....	18 77
" Music ".....	63 46
" Pupils' Clothing.....	300 60
" House Furnishing.....	482 06
" Servant Hire.....	746 51
" Fuel and Lights.....	1,037 70
" Provisions.....	4,189 03
" Repairs and Specials.....	1,303 31—\$11,545 71
Excess of Expenditures.....	\$ 33 91

RECEIPTS—1871.

Orders of the Board of Trustees.....\$11,250 00

EXPENDITURES TO NOVEMBER 1ST.

For excess of Expenditures over Receipts, 1870.....\$	33 91
“ Salaries.....	2,355 00
“ Postage and Stationery.....	14 69
“ Carriage Hire and Travel.....	69 15
“ School Expenses.....	193 53
“ Music “.....	49 83
“ Pupils’ Clothes.....	394 23
“ House Furnishing.....	259 98
“ Servant Hire.....	674 85
“ Fuel and Lights.....	813 20
“ Provisions.....	2,931 20
“ Special.....	609 10
“ Repairs.....	478 31—\$ 8,876 98

Cash on hand to meet Expenses to January 1st prox...\$ 2,373 02

With the experience of the past before us, and the probable necessities of the future in view, I estimate that *eleven thousand dollars*—the usual annual appropriation, if used with economy, will be sufficient for all the wants of the Academy for the next year.

An important event of the present year, in this branch of educational work, was the assembling of a convention of American instructors of the blind, in August, at Indianapolis. Representatives from eighteen institutions were present, and letters from the superintendents of several others were received. This convention, on account of the large number present and the wisdom and professional experience of many of the members, and also on account of the weighty questions considered, was, perhaps, the most important council ever assembled in the interests of the blind. Its deliberations, under the guidance of such men as Mr. CHAPIN, the venerable Principal of the Pennsylvania Institution, as President, Mr. CHURCHMAN, of Indiana, Dr. LORD, of New York (State Institution at Batavia), and others of like character, will, doubtless, result in great good to the cause of this unfortunate class throughout the country. The range of topics considered and discussed, embraced all the points belonging to the general subject, and the conclusions reached were singularly harmonious. The body, during a session of three days, was most hospitably entertained in the Indiana Institu-

tion, whose building is a palace in architectural art, with arrangements and grounds corresponding thereto—all the projection of the present Superintendent, W. H. CHURCHMAN, Esq., and moreover a worthy monument of the liberal policy and munificence of the great State of Indiana. The genial courtesy of the Superintendent, aided by the kind attentions of his family and his assistants, contributed in no small degree to make the gentlemen and ladies of the Convention (before mutual strangers, called together, by a common interest, from localities widely apart) experience, in the intervals of business, all that degree of social enjoyment which might be expected in a reunion of life-long friends.

With my thanks to the Board for its continued consideration, and to my associates in the school and household for their cordial co-operation with me in the work committed to us, I submit, most respectfully, this Report.

W. D. WILLIAMS,
Principal.

PUPILS.

NAMES.	MALES.	RESIDENCES.
ANDERSON, A. HOWARD.....		Burke County.
ASTIN, CHARLES.....		Campbell County.
BAILEY, WILLIAM T.....		Gordon County.
BALKUM, M. L.....		Twiggs County.
BARNES, JOSEPHUS.....		Bibb County.
BODDIFORD, ALEXANDER.....		Decatur County.
BURKS, JOHN J.....		Clayton County.
CAMP, J. T.....		Bibb County.
COLEY, J. T.....		Stewart County.
GIBSON, JAMES.....		Twiggs County.
GRAVES, JOSIAH S.....		Floyd County.
GREER, ROBERT, (in shop).....		Bibb County.
HENDRIX, J. G. FRY.....		Coweta County.
HUTCHERSON, ROBERT, (in shop).....		Floyd County.
JONES, WILEY.....		Bibb County.
NORTHCUTT, W. I.....		Campbell County.
PEACOCK, L. O.....		Wilkinson County.
POWELL, WILLIS.....		Stewart County.
REED, G. O., (in shop).....		Bartow County.
SINGLETON, JAMES.....		Harris County.
STONE, G. W.....		Newton County.
YANATCHECK, WENCIL.....		Louisiana.

NAMES.	FEMALES.	RESIDENCES.
BARBEE, MISSOURI.....		Jones County.
BARFIELD, CENETH.....		Macon County.
BATES, MARY ELLA.....		Gordon County.
BEAMAN, PAULINE.....		Bartow County.
COLLINS, MINNER.....		Alabama.
COLEY, NANNIE.....		Stewart County.
COLEY, SUSAN V.....		Stewart County.
COUCH, MATTIE.....		Jackson County.
ELLINGTON, M. P.....		Wilkes County.
ESTES, S. E.....		Paulding County.
HUDGINS, SALLIE.....		Gordon County.
KING, ALICE.....		Fulton County.
MCCARSON, LILLY E.....		Warren County.
MCGUIRE, KITTY.....		Fulton County.
MCINVALE, FANNY.....		Crawford County.
PERRY, M. A.....		Macon County.
PRICE, ALICE.....		Randolph County.
REED, CARRIE.....		Bartow County.
TAYLOR, MARY A.....		Harris County.
TAYLOR, MARY E.....		Macon County.
THOMPSON, LAURA.....		Twiggs County.

CARD OF THANKS.

The thanks of the Officers and Pupils of the Georgia Academy for the Blind are due and are hereby tendered to the Officers of the following Railroads of the State for free passes, on necessary occasions, over their respective lines—a most important privilege and aid towards the benevolent work of the Institution—viz :

MACON & WESTERN,
SOUTH-WESTERN,
CENTRAL,
MACON & BRUNSWICK,
ATLANTA & WEST POINT,
WESTERN & ATLANTIC.

Also, the thanks of the same are due and hereby tendered to the Proprietors and Editors of the following newspapers, for sending their issues gratuitously to the Institution, thereby contributing means of information as to the enurrent news and other important matters; and also to the same and to all other papers that have given such notice of the Institution and its work as was calculated to bring its object and advantages before the blind youth of the State:

The Telegraph and Messenger—Daily—of Macon.

The Federal Union—Weekly—of Milledgeville.

The Argus—Weekly—of Bainbridge.

The Atlanta Constitution—Daily—of Atlanta.

The Atlanta New Era—Daily—of Atlanta.

The Houston Home Journal—Weekly—of Perry.

The Macon Citizen—Daily—of Macon.

W. D. WILLIAMS,
Principal.

